

Friday, November 13, 2009

### **Masevaux - Vogt High School European class reaches out to the U.S.**

The English project of the European class at the Joseph Vogt High School in Masevaux began in 2005 thanks to the impetus of Olivier Leclercq, electro-technology teacher.

The program components were tested at the beginning of school in 2007 in the BEP electro-technology professions class. This class, which prepares students for the baccalaureate exam for the European section, included two supplemental hours of English instruction per week and a trip to England in June 2008. One of the Bac European sections started at the beginning of the 2008 school year, with the goal of developing the professional experience aspect of instruction through an internship in another country. The students' training ended with a visit to the Council of Europe to acquire information and knowledge on its function.

In keeping with the priority of the Strasbourg leadership to align language instruction with technical training and human relations, the Dareic (Academic delegation for international and European relations and collaboration) contacted Olivier Leclercq to propose an exchange agreement with a technical high school: Greenfield Central High School, in the State of Indiana, USA.

#### **First trip has taken place**

*"Following an initial contact for the students via videoconference in May 2009," Olivier tells us, I went to the United States this past October to meet my American partner, Mark Holzhausen. During a ten day period I was able to establish initial contacts at Greenfield high school, I taught several French classes, I answered a multitude of questions from both students and adults about our country that were surprising at times..."*

#### **A project to help senior citizens remain in their homes**

Following a mapping of a partnership similar to two others that have been initiated by the Academy of Strasbourg, the two teachers jointly conceived of an educational project which transcends the electro-technology field: help senior citizens remain in their homes thanks to various information, communication and motion detection technologies. They also planned for a future trans-Atlantic exchange trip for the Masevaux students.

This prospective project will also engage other high school classes, to include "health and social service", "administrative skills" and "electro-technology" as well as collaboration with practitioners. This is a far reaching program which precisely represents the type of academic projects aimed at transforming instruction and it stands a good chance of success thanks to Olivier Leclercq's enthusiasm.